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ER 10-3017

Approved For Release 2003/12/09 : CIA-RDP84-00022R000400010004-6

22 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: OSS Records in the Custody of the National Archives

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.
2. The National Archives has custody of three fragmentary files of OSS archives, originally accepted from SSU, CIC, or CIA between 1946 and 1948. (See Annex A for a summary of these files.)
3. These records are closed to public use, except with the specific permission of CIA, in accordance with restrictions agreed to by the National Archives and CIA. (For summary, see Annex E.) From time to time the National Archives has publicized these records in its published guides and public catalogs. (See Annexes C and D for excerpts.) The restrictions (Annex E), in which OSS and CIA are linked, are also a matter of public knowledge.
4. Needless public curiosity about these records and about CIA's relationship to them is aroused in researchers and students who make inquiries at the National Archives. Motion picture and TV companies, desiring to secure "cooperation" from CIA, which they can advertise and thus make their product Government "official," continuously seek release of these films. Public inquiries could be more easily controlled if the records were returned to CIA custody. Both the National Archives and CIA's Records Management Staff favor such a transfer.
5. It is therefore recommended that the Records Management Staff arrange with the National Archives for the return of these records to CIA.


SIGNED

STANLEY J. GROGAN  
Assistant to the Director

CONCURRENCES:

/s/ Lyman Kirkpatrick  
Inspector General

APR 23 1958  
Date

25X1  
  
for Deputy Director (Plans)

NOV 7 1958  
Date

/s/ L. K. White  
Deputy Director (Support) Date

NOV 20 1958

\*Concur in Paragraph 5 subject to the understanding that the return of these records will not involve any additional workload on the DD/P and that appropriate controls will be established concerning release.

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Memorandum dated 22 April 1958 to The Director from Stanley J. Grogan, Assistant to the Director, subject: "OSS Records in the Custody of the National Archives"

The recommendation in paragraph 5.  
is APPROVED:

Signed G. P. CABELL

~~Allen W. Dulles~~

*Deputy* Director of Central Intelligence

9 DEC 1958

Date

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Annex A

Summary of OSS Records in the National Archives

The following three files on deposit in the National Archives were transferred by SSU, CIG, and CIA:

1. Five motion pictures, 1942-45, produced by the OSS Field Photo Branch, entitled: "December 7" (Hawaii before, during, and after the attack on Pearl Harbor); "Japanese Behavior"; "The Geography of Japan"; "Natural Resources of Japan"; and "Landing in Sicily" (35 reels in all). These films, which are described in detail in the National Archives public catalog (see excerpts, in Annex D), were all unclassified at the time they were offered for deposit by SSU, in November 1945, and they are so cataloged in the National Archives. It appears, however, that other prints of some of the same films (that is, those in the custody of Graphics Register/OCR) are variously classified "Confidential" and "US Official Use Only."
2. Property records of various OSS field installations, 1942-45; about 443 linear feet in bulk. This file contains requisitions, purchase orders, and similar papers relating to OSS procurement of property, equipment, supplies, and services. There have never been any public inquiries about this file, so it is understood from the National Archives official in charge of the file. Both the National Archives and the CIA Records Management Staff informally have favored the disposal of this file as useless records.
3. Correspondence file of the OSS Pictorial Records Section, including its Washington and New York Offices, 1942-45; 33 linear feet in bulk. The Pictorial Records Section was part of the OSS Research and Analysis Branch,

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and is apparently an "ancestor" of the present Graphics Register, OCR. This file was part of the OSS R&A archives which were inherited by the State Department in the liquidation of October 1945. Subsequently, however, the file was transferred by State to CIA, and in May 1948 it was in turn offered by CIA to the National Archives. For a more detailed description, see Annex B, pp. 3, 5.

(Note. Eight other OSS files on deposit in the National Archives were transferred by the State Department, and are under State control. For a detailed inventory of the entire deposit from both agencies, see Annex B.)

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